

## **Science Autobiography/ Reflective Personal Narrative**

### **Rationale:**

We all bring preconceived ideas and beliefs to learning to teach science- "teachers teach as they were taught". The first step in becoming an enthusiastic and skilled teacher of science is to reflect upon the experiences that have shaped your current ideas about science. This will set the stage for the new perspectives offered by this course. A science autobiography is an essay in which you describe your personal experiences with science, in or out of school, and then use your own experiences to define the kind of science teacher you hope to become.

### **Expectations:**

Your essay should contain three components:

1. **Recall** : Describe your experiences with science (both in and out of school) from your earliest memories to the present day. Why do these experiences stand out and not others? If you don't remember much about your early science experiences, speculate on the possible reasons.
2. **Reflect**: Once you have described your experiences, reread your work for analysis: What are the general characteristics of science experiences that have been meaningful (or a turn-off) for you? Do you feel you have been successful in science? Why or why not? Be as candid as possible in responding to these issues. Based upon what you have learned about mindset, do you feel that you have growth or fixed mindset toward science as a learner? Did certain teachers (or parent/guardian) behaviors foster this attitude? What are some ways in which you can work toward a growth mindset as a learner?
3. **Connect**: Finally, give your definition of science (what you think science is and how you view it). How have your past learning experiences shaped your definition of science and your attitudes toward science? What are some things that you can do to help students develop growth mindsets? Be specific and share examples.

There is not a page requirement, just be thorough and thoughtful because this will help you with in-class discussions and your work for this semester.

**Please use 1" margins, 12-point font and double-space.**

**Due to iLearn Assignment Dropbox by Friday, January 19**